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HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1954

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Mayor:

ALDERMAN J.J. THOMAS

Chairman - Public Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR W. BAXTER

Public Health Committee: Alderman G. Cleverly
Alderman Sir W. Prescott-Westcar
Alderman E.T. Turner
Councillor F.J. Snelling
Councillor A. Mottershead
Councillor Mrs. B.M.L. Blazeby
Councillor L.K. Barlow
Councillor Major Tomlinson
Councillor Miss M. Turner
Councillor K. Dadds
Councillor Miss A. Richardson
Councillor Mrs. I.E. Boyle
Councillor N.H. Cork
Councillor D.J. Jutson

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sanitary Inspector	G.T. ROWLANDS
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...		D.D. THOMAS
Clerk	Miss E.V. Miles

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Town Clerk

L.N. WATTS

Surveyor

G.T. ROWLANDS



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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the report on public health matters for 1954. A statistical statement for the United M.O.H. District has already been sent to the representatives on the United M.O.H. District Committee and the relevant statistics for Sandwich are here presented again.

I am indebted to your Chief Officials for their helpful co-operation and express my appreciation of your interest in the public health tasks ahead of us.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Population: The population of the Borough at mid 1954 was 4,590, an increase of 59 on the previous year.

Area: The area of 2,137 acres was unchanged.

Births: 78 births occurred of which 37 were male and 41 female. Two of the births occurred outside wedlock.

Stillbirths: In addition to the births 2 stillbirths occurred, one male, one female; both in births within wedlock.

Deaths: One infant death occurred at age 8 months from Kidney trouble. The total deaths numbered 40, equally divided between the sexes, being 13 fewer than in 1953.

The causes of death were as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	
All Malignant Neoplasms:	4	3	
(Lungs	1	-)
(Breast... ..	-	1)
(Others... ..	3	2)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	4	
Coronary Disease and Angina	5	-	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	
Other Heart Disease... ..	-	4	
Other Circulatory Diseases... ..	1	1	
Bronchitis	-	1	
Other Respiratory Diseases... ..	2	-	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea..	-	1	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	
Congenital Malformations	1	-	
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	4	
TOTAL:	20	20	- 40

Age Distribution of Deaths

Age	0-1	1-45	46-65	66-80	81-90	90+
Male	-	-	8	8	4	-
Female	1	2	-	12	4	1
Total:	1	2	8	20	8	1

Vital Statistical Rates

Births - 16.99 per 1,000

Corrected birth rate - 19.7 (C.F. 1.16)

Deaths - 8.71 per 1,000

Corrected Death Rate - 7.22 (C.F. 0.83)

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate - 37.5 per 1,000 total births

Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever - 1 case was notified

Measles - There were no cases notified

Whooping Cough - 56 cases of Whooping Cough were notified,
51 of them in the last quarter of the year.
Age distribution of the cases was:-

0-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 yrs.+
25	27	1	3

Pneumonia - 2 cases in adults occurred, one in each quarter
of the first half of the year.

Tuberculosis - Six cases of respiratory tuberculosis were
notified, 4 males and 2 females. The age
distribution of these cases was:-

Under 15	15-25	25-45	45+
Nil	1 F.	2 M.	2 M.
		1 F.	

The state of the Register of Tuberculosis at the
end of 1954 was:

27 Respiratory	-	(12 Male 15 Female)
4 Non Respiratory	-	(3 Male 1 Female)

This was an increase of 6 on the respiratory and
a reduction of 3 on the non-respiratory groups.

Diphtheria Immunisation (Information provided by the County M.O.H.)

The activity of 1953 in diphtheria immunisation was not maintained. 55 primary immunisations were carried out and 40 reinforcing immunisations. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 121 and 226.

The state of protection at the end of the year is shown by the following table, showing the children who had completed a course of immunisation (primary or reinforcing) at any time during the previous 15 years.

It is most satisfactory that 91% of those immunised are adequately protected, the course having been within the last five years.

Year of Birth	1940	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster 1950 - 1954	35	38	24	56	59	64	78	71	59	48	60	67	67	34	9	769
1949 or earlier	13	21	17	2	2	3	3	5	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	75

Those adequately protected represent just under 17% of the population which is a satisfactory proportion of the child population.

Vaccination

54 children were vaccinated and 10 revaccinated against smallpox during the year. This maintains a reasonable level.

Staff Changes

Early in the year it was decided by the Council that the duties of Sanitary Inspection in addition to the duties of Surveyor and Water Engineer could not be covered by one officer. An additional Sanitary Inspector was therefore appointed. Mr. D.D. Thomas, certificated Sanitary Inspector took up duties in March 1954 under Mr. Rowlands.

Slaughterhouses

With decontrol of meat the matter of slaughterhouses had to be considered. The Council decided to license only 1 slaughterhouse, that in Loop Street. This is a booth type slaughterhouse, which had been in use by the Ministry of Food. It was provisionally licensed pending improvements. Meat Inspection is a regular and prominent feature of the public health work, some 12 - 18 hours per week being required, frequently in the evening and at weekends.

The kill during 1954 was:-

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Cattle	1,435	1,345
Calves	525	669
Sheep and Lambs	2,620	3,004
Pigs	5,933	1,480

All were inspected and 9 tons 8 cwts. 3 qrtrs. condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Housing

The unfit housing survey was started, and a total of 342 visits made on housing. 53 complaints were investigated.

33 informal requests to remedy defects were complied with, and 20 required notices. Defects were remedied in 47 cases.

3 houses were closed under the Housing Acts.

No demolitions were enforced.

The Council built 22 houses and private enterprise built 6.

Water Supply

An old 3" main in Ramsgate Road was replaced by a 6" main, including a connection under the river Stour to link with the 6" loop main in the town.

The well supply was improved by installing an electric submersible pump, a chlorinator and a residual chlorine recorder.

All except 3 houses in the Borough receive main water supply. Two of these are beyond the water boundaries.

The total consumption of water in the year exceeded 100 million gallons, contributed to by 2 burst mains and constructional work on a large antibiotic production unit (Pfizers)

Routine sampling was satisfactory throughout the year, and routine chemical analysis gave the following result:-

Physical Characters:- Clear

Odour : Taste and smell normal

Deposit : None - pH 7.36

Chemical Examination:-

In parts per million

Solids in suspension	..	-
Solids in solution (dried at 180°C)	.. ..	418
Solids in solution after ignition	.. ..	385

Chemical Examination (Cont.):-In Parts per million

Chlorides calculated as chlorine	36
Free a Saline Ammonia	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	None
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) ..	4.0
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) ..	None
Oxygen absorbed in $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. at 26.7°C	0.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 26.7°C	0.12
Toxic metals	Not detected
Free and combined residual chlorine	0.05
Hardness - Bicarbonate alkalinity	265
Total	310

Waste Water Prevention

Steps were taken during the year to reduce the wastage of water. Normal waste detection at night was undertaken and leaks when found were repaired. It's interesting to note that in 3 weeks in December the total daily consumption dropped to an average of 205,000 gallons and was made up as follows:

Metered supplies	60,000 galls/day
Domestic supplies	145,000 galls/day

In order to keep a closer check on main pressures for leak detection and to provide information of demand a Bristol Recording Meter was obtained and installed. It's worth mentioning that this meter gave the first information of a burst in the main.

Rainfall

During the year a total of 24.11 inches of rain fell in Sandwich. The monthly figures were:-

January	...	1.55
February	...	2.23
March	...	2.28
April	...	0.13
May	...	1.80
June	...	1.74
July	...	1.62
August	...	2.74
September	...	1.25
October	...	2.29
November	...	4.96
December	...	1.53
		<u>24.11</u>

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Some extensions occurred to new parts of the housing estate. Considerable work was done to investigate how and where improvements to

the present system can be made. A sewage treatment plant to improve the present system of fragmentation and discharge into the river is under consideration.

The increase in the number of dwellings since 1935, the large number of street gullies connected to sewers and some inefficiency in the pumps was thought responsible for flooding in New Street and Woodnesborough Road. The Council are actively investigating the sewerage system.

Refuse Disposal

Domestic refuse is collected once a week, and a Karrier Bantam refuse collector is used for this purpose. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

During the year the tip along the Richborough Road was completed and a new site had to be chosen. A field adjacent to the Sandwich - Canterbury road at Each End (just outside the Borough boundary) was chosen and the refuse is disposed of in this field. It is an easier tip to control and during the year there has been no fly or rat nuisance, and although it adjoins the main road there is little to which exception can be taken.

Food Preparation, Sale and Handling.

(a) Licenced Premises

All public houses and licenced premises have been inspected and recommendations have resulted in a considerable amount of constructional work being carried out.

This has meant that toilet accommodation has been improved and much better facilities provided for washing-up glasses.

(b) Bakeries

All bakeries and food preparation places were inspected during the year and efforts to raise the public health standards in the more backward cases met with considerable success.

(c) Shops

All food shops have been inspected and during the year 105 lbs. of tins and other foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(d) Ice Cream

A total of 22 premises have been registered for the sale of Ice Cream. All of which were inspected during the year. It is satisfying to note that nearly all these registrations are for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream. No premises are used for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

(e) Butcher's Shops

All butcher's shops and vehicles have been regularly inspected throughout the year.

Work taken has resulted in an improvement in the shops, especially in the washing arrangements.

Milk and Dairies

A. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, Part III

No. of registered distributors	..	..	3
No. of registered dairies	..	..	2

B. Licenses granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949, excluding licenses granted by Food and Drugs Authorities in relation to Milk pasteurised or sterilised on premises of the applicant.

		<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	..	2	1
Sterilised	..	-	1
T.T. (Raw)	..	2	1

Rodent Control

Total number of inspections during the year - 54, which were:

Business premises	- 7	Council property	- 2
Dwellings	- 45	Agricultural premises	- Nil

Number of premises found to be infested - 41, which were:

Business premises	- 3	Council property	- 2
Dwellings	- 36	Agricultural premises	- Nil

Total number of treatments given by Council - 41, being

Rat treatments - 26 Mice treatments - 15

In general, infestations occur mainly in the older houses of the town where absence of site concrete, lath and plaster external walls and the close proximity of buildings to one another predispose towards infestation. Warfarin has again been used in the majority of treatments for rats and mice.

Sewer Treatments

Two maintenance treatments were made during the year:-

27 manholes baited.

10 manholes showed prebait take and in 7 manholes the poison bait was taken.

The long lengths of sewer which occur between the manholes or suitable baiting points make the treatment of a compact area difficult. Sewer treatments have shown the continuing rat activity in the town sewers. The outlying district and newer parts of the system again appeared to be free of infestation.

Mosquitoes

Trouble was experienced with mosquitoes in the Sandwich Bay district of the town. Mosquitoes breed freely around the Borough as the terrain provides good breeding spots, but generally only for the variety of mosquitoes which feed on cattle. The nuisance arose from a fierce biting variety. General advice was circulated to rate payers on the destruction of hibernating mosquitoes and on eradication of breeding places in the town. The rural district authority has also taken measures.

<u>Factories</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices</u>
1. In which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are enforced by L.A.	3	9	1
2. Factories not in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	31	75	5
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-
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TOTAL:	34	84	6

Some defects were found but were corrected without formal action.

<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Outwork</u>
Want of Cleanliness - 1	There were 5 outworkers making containers of paper
Unreasonable temperature - 1	
Sanitary Conveniences:	
Insufficient - Nil	
Unsuitable or defective - 9	
Not separate for sexes - 1	
Other offences - 6	
TOTAL: 18	

General Summary of Inspection

Housing inspections 342	Total B/F 479
Shipping 12	
Ice Cream Premises 39	Food inspections.. 827
Butchers shops, Bakeries and Food premises 39	Infectious Diseases 15
Licensed premises 47	Factories 84
	Miscellaneous .. 289
Total C/F .. 479	Total: 1,694

Shipping

The total number of vessels entering the river during the year was 125, the cargoes of which were mainly:-

Petrol
Oils of various types
Timber
Fertilizers

This represents a considerable increase on recent years.

Total tonnage of goods landed in the port during 1954 amounted to 9,380 tons as compared with 7,727 tons in the previous year. The maximum tonnage of ships capable of using the Port is stated to be 1,000 tons, and in fact two ships of that tonnage have been handled. This limit is determined by the depth of water over the bar and the length required for swinging vessels. Should there be a demand by vessels of greater tonnage to use the port, doubtless the work to make this possible would be undertaken.

There were no cases of infectious disease in ships during 1954 and port facilities remain unchanged. The water supply to the quay was sampled and found satisfactory.

